

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ST-01 PM-03 DODE-00 EB-07 SP-02 /024 R

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P 052139Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 104637

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PGOV, BL

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR AIRLIFT OF PRESIDENTIAL AUTOMOBILE

REF: LA PAZ 2088; LA PAZ 3032

1. DEPARTMENT HAS EXPLORED ALL POSSIBLE MEANS TO PERMIT U.S. MILITARY AIRLIFT OF PRESIDENT BANZER'S AUTOMOBILE BUT IS UNABLE TO MEET BASIC DOD CRITERION THAT NO, REPEAT NO, COMMERCIAL ALTERNATIVES EXIST. IN RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT QUERY MADE AT MAC REQUEST, SATURN AIRWAYS HAS INDICATED IT COULD PROVIDE A CHARTER AIRCRAFT TO TRANSPORT THE VEHICLE TO LA PAZ, ALTHOUGH AT A COST OF \$55,000. THE PROHIBITION ON DOD COMPETITION WITH COMMERCIAL CARRIERS IS BLANKET, HOWEVER, AND NOT DEPENDENT ON COMMERCIAL RATES.

2. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, DEPARTMENT CAN ONLY SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY EXPLAIN USG REQUIREMENTS AND REGRET OUR INABILITY TO OVERCOME IMPEDIMENT POSED BY AVAILABILITY OF COMMERCIAL CHARTER. EMBASSY MAY WISH TO PROPOSE FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES FOR GOB CONSIDERATION: (1) POSSIBLY GOB CAN
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IDENTIFY SUFFICIENT MATERIEL/EQUIPMENT IN ADDITION TO

PRESIDENTIAL VEHICLE WHICH REQUIRES URGENT SHIPMENT TO LA
PAZ TO JUSTIFY COST OF CHARTERING SATURN AIRWAYS CRAFT;

OR (2) GOB COULD CONSIDER APPROACHING PETROLEUM COMPANIES
TO SEEK THEIR ASSISTANCE ON A REIMBURSABLE BASIS. WE
UNDERSTAND UNION OIL OPERATES A WEEKLY CHARTER FLIGHT TO
BOLIVIA AND PRESUMABLY OTHER PETROLEUM COMPANIES DO LIKE-
WISE. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESIDENT, MILITARY AIRLIFTS, AUTOMOBILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE104637
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MWCOTTER:EO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750157-0724
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750580/aaaacvia.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 LA PAZ 2088, 75 LA PAZ 3032
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 14 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <14 JUL 2003 by SilvaL0>; APPROVED <03 MAR 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REQUEST FOR AIRLIFT OF PRESIDENTIAL AUTOMOBILE
TAGS: MILI, PGOV, BL, US, (BANZER SUAREZ, HUGO)
To: LA PAZ
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006